

to reach the House floor to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF EDNA MERLE  
WILKINSON

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday my friends Patti and JOHN GARAMENDI experienced the loss of Patti's mother, Edna Merle Wilkinson, who passed away at the age of 92.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Edna's rich life, which brought so much happiness to so many people.

Edna lived for many years in my district, graduating from high school in Watsonville. She married John Wilkinson, owner of Granite Construction Company, and helped build that small local company into one of the largest construction firms in the Nation.

Edna offers us many lessons on life, how to live happily and have a positive effect on others. I request that the following tribute to this great woman be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Edna Merle Wilkinson passed away peacefully on May 19th, 2010, after nearly 92 long years of life. Merle was born May 26, 1918 in Marlow, Oklahoma to Mary Alma Wright Twyman and Harvey Hinton Twyman.

Merle was the 5th of their seven children. Her siblings included brothers Louie and Col. Richard Twyman, and sisters Miriam Lister, Evelyn Halward, Erlene Flores, and Alice Flounoy.

Merle lived and attended schools in Watsonville and Alturas, California where her accomplishments and actions are evidence of her compassionate and driven nature. In 1936 she graduated from Watsonville High School where she was awarded the American Legion Award for leadership, courage and academic excellence. She also was elected Student Body Secretary, served as the captain of the field hockey team and competed in ice skating events. After her graduation, Merle attended Business College and was a legal assistant to the Superior Court Judge in Salinas, CA.

Merle found her partner for life at a young age—on June 16, 1940 she married John "Jack" E. Wilkinson, the son of Walter J. Wilkinson, the founder of Granite Construction Company. Together they built the highway and road construction firm into what is today one of the half dozen largest in the country.

Merle and Jack were blessed with three daughters. Susan, Patti and Nancy were all born in Watsonville and attended the same high school their great grandmother Carrie Earle Wilkinson had graduated from in 1894.

Merle, a bright loving mother and wife, was also known for her community involvement. She was active in the Eastern Star and the Johnny Appleseed Auxiliary where she hosted fundraisers for local charities. Her deep involvement with the activities of her children blended with her community spirit and she often spent hours cooking for major events and volunteering in the schools.

From the kitchen to the football field and great outdoors, Merle was also an avid sports fan and athlete. She enjoyed fishing, camping, hiking and could often be found in the rooting section of Cal Berkeley football games when her son-in-law John Garamendi was playing.

After her husband passed away in October of 1969, Merle moved to Stockton to be closer to her daughters. Always one for adventure and challenges, she spent the next several years travelling the world. With a fearless spirit she rode horseback at the Treetops Lodge at Richard Holden's in Kenya, rode camels in Egypt and even elephants in India, keeping wonderful postcard journals for her grandchildren. She visited over 60 countries and was a true pioneer.

Merle's energy and heart of service has never wavered throughout her life. In Stockton she was one of the founders of the Lady Bugs Auxiliary; an organization that supports the developmentally disabled. Having lost her daughter, Nancy, to juvenile diabetes in 1995, she was supportive of the American Diabetes Association and could always be found taking casseroles to families of cancer patients.

While living in Stockton in the latter years of her life, Merle also became involved in local politics, making incredible lunches for volunteers and walking precincts with her grandchildren.

Merle's life is celebrated by her daughter, Patti, and her son-in-law, Congressman John Garamendi, who lovingly cared for her in their home over the past two-and-a-half years. Her 12 grandchildren and her 21 great-grandchildren also celebrate her life. Her work ethic, generosity, spirit of service and adventure, and love for family continues to serve as an inspiration to all who knew her.

The pioneering spirit that her family brought to America over 350 years ago lives on through her legacy.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to my friends Patti and JOHN GARAMENDI, both fellow Peace Corps volunteers, and our sincere thanks to Edna Merle Wilkinson for serving as such a great example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO COL MICHAEL R.  
SHOULTS

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Col Michael R. Shoultz will retire from the United States Air Force after 27 years of active duty service. He currently serves as the Chief of the Nuclear Plans, Policy, and Strategy Division of the Air Force.

A native of Bridgeton, Missouri, Col Shoultz earned his Bachelor's degree in Aircraft Maintenance Management from Parks College of St. Louis University. From there, he went on to receive degrees from the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Webster University, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the National Defense University, among others.

This extensive education did much to further Col Shoultz' long, diverse, and successful career. In the Air Force, he served as the Air Force operations readiness officer at U.S. Atlantic Command and the commander of the 28th Bomb Squadron and deputy commander for the 7th Operations Group at Dyess Air Force Base. Most recently he served as the vice commander of the 2nd Bomb Wing and the Chief of Staff of Air Combat Command's

8th Air Force. Additionally, as a command pilot he has logged over 3,800 hours in the B-52 and B-1 aircraft.

For his service, Col Shoultz received numerous awards and decorations including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, let me take this means to extend my congratulations to Col Shoultz on his well-earned retirement and to wish him, his wife Elaine, and his two sons, Robert and Neil, the very best in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE LATE TROOPER  
PATRICK AMBROISE

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Trooper Patrick Ambroise, a constituent in the 17th Congressional district I represent. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude for the dedication he provided to Florida Highway Patrol Troop K.

A native Miamian, Trooper Ambroise graduated from Miami Edison Senior High School. He began his career with Florida Highway Patrol in January 2006. At the time of his death he lived in Miramar, Florida with his wife and two daughters, 5 years and 3 months old. Often noted as a dedicated and religious man, Trooper Ambroise was a tenor in a gospel group.

"I want his family to know that he really loved them," said Trooper Ambroise's partner, Trooper Shenaqua Stringer.

As a former Florida Highway Patrolman myself, it is quite clear that Trooper Ambroise demonstrated a passion for law enforcement and commitment to helping others, qualities that enabled him to become a respected and model member throughout Miami-Dade County. Florida Highway Patrol District Commander Captain Sammie Thomas said at a ceremony, "Any time we lose a member of this family, it quite naturally is going to affect us. We take these highways personal. We work every day and put our lives on the line to protect the public, and that's what Patrick did."

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Trooper Patrick Ambroise's extraordinary life and many accomplishments. I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to him before the United States House of Representatives. Trooper Ambroise was an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation. It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend him for his contributions to his community and the many lives that he touched while serving as a shining example of his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO MABLE VOSHELL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mable Voshell of Osage, Iowa